

REMARKS

Acceptance/entry of this Amendment, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116, which, Applicants submit, renders the above-identified application allowable, is respectfully requested. Supportive discussion follows.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 3, 6 and 9.

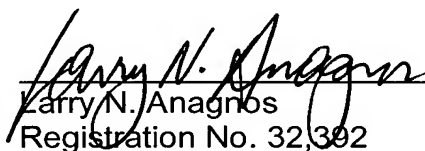
As to the outstanding objection to claim 8 and the rejection of claims 7 and 8, under 35 USC § 103(a), they have been rendered moot with the canceling of these claims. It is submitted, however, agreeing to the canceling of claims 7 and 8 should not be construed as acquiescence with regard to the merits of the previously standing art rejection directed thereto. In this regard, these claims were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, thereby rendering the application in condition for formal allowance.

Therefore, having obviated all previously standing issues, formal entry of this amendment as well as early allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account. No. 01-2135 (520.43863X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Larry N. Anagnos
Registration No. 32,392

LNA/mlh
Telephone: (703) 312-6600
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666